

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 207703
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU

SUBJECT: VAROSHA ISSUE IN UN

REF: STATE 204964

1. TURKISH CHARGE NURES CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBOUR AUGUST 30 TO PRESENT, IN RESPONSE TO COUNSELOR NIMETZ' REQUEST OF AUGUST 26 (REFTEL), TURKISH POSITION ON FUTURE OF VAROSHA. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, NURES EXPLAINED THAT FAMAGUSTA CONSISTED OF TWO PARTS: FIRST WAS OLD FAMAGUSTA CONTAINING CYPRUS' ONLY DEEPWATER PORT, SECOND WAS NEW CITY CONSISTING MOSTLY OF HOTELS BUILT DURING BRITISH PERIOD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 207703

IN BETWEEN THESE TWO DISTINCT AREAS (AND BY IMPLICATION FORMING PART OF NEITHER) WAS CONSTANTIA HOTEL. NURES NOTED THAT DECISION TO REOPEN CONSTANTIA AS HOTEL TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT CENTER HAD BEEN TAKEN BY "TFSC" SOME EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, AND THE ECEVIT STATEMENT OF JULY 20 HAD SIMPLY BEEN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTUAL OPENING FOLLOWING RENOVATION WORK. IN ADDITION TO HOTEL ITSELF "TWO OR THREE"

OTHER BUILDINGS IN VICINITY HAD ALSO BEEN RENOVATED, APPARENTLY AS RESIDENCES FOR FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS, AND WERE NOW OCCUPIED. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, NURES SAID HE COULD NOT TELL FROM HIS INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER THE ASSOCIATION OF THESE "TWO OR THREE" OTHER BUILDINGS WITH CONSTANTIA PROJECT WAS A NEW DECISION OR WHETHER IT, TOO, HAD BEEN MADE 18 MONTHS

AGO. NURES SAID THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF HOTEL AND THESE "TWO OR THREE" BUILDINGS, WHOLE OF VAROSHA REMAINED UNDER CONTROL OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES. HE POINTED OUT THAT VAROSHA BELONGED TO "TFSC" AS MUCH AS FORMER TURKISH PROPERTY IN SOUTH NOW BELONGED TO GREEK CYPRIOTS, BUT THAT TURKISH FORCES HAD BEEN ASKED TO REMAIN IN PLACE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE MAJOR ASSET THAT HOTELS AND OTHER TOURIST FACILITIES REPRESENTED.

2. CHARGE SAID THAT, IN REPLY TO COUNSELOR NIMETZ' QUESTION, TURKISH GOVERNMENT WANTED US TO KNOW QUESTION OF THE SETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA DID NOT ARISE. PRESSED BY DEPTOFFS FOR CLARIFICATION, NURES SAID THAT WHAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS MEANT WAS THAT REPLY TO OUR QUESTION OF WHETHER TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS ENGAGING IN WIDER RESETTLEMENT IN VAROSHA WAS NO. ASKED WHETHER WE COULD CONVEY GOT ATTITUDES TO CYPRIOTS AND CITE THEM PUBLICLY, NURES SAID HE HAD REPORTED NIMETZ' QUESTION TO ANKARA. SINCE HIS INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED NO OBJECTION TO SUCH USAGE AND IN VIEW OF SIMILAR, THOUGH MORE POINTEDLY POLITICAL REMARKS MADE BY DENKTASH
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PAGE 03 STATE 207703

ON AUGUST 29, HE SAW NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT USE GOT POLICY STATEMENT ANY WAY WE THOUGHT HELPFUL. BARBOUR COMMENTED THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE ASSURANCES COUNSELOR NIMETZ HAD REQUESTED WERE HELPFUL.

3. NURES THEN EXAMINED IN SOME DETAIL BASIS FOR TURKISH OPPOSITION TO RAISING OF VAROSHA ISSUE IN SECURITY COUNCIL, STRESSING THAT THIS WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. AS LONG AS GREEK CYPRIOTS MAINTAINED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST "TFSC", ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO HAVE RECOURSE TO THE UN AND THEIR DECLARATIONS IN SUPPORT OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WERE OF NO USE. NURES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD TELL GREEK CYPRIOTS THAT RECOURSE TO UN IN THIS INSTANCE WOULD ONLY MAKE SITUATION WORSE, PARTICULARLY AS ISSUE HAD BEEN TRUMPED UP BY KYPRIANOU LARGELY FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL ENDS. BARBOUR SAID THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ALREADY KNEW OUR DOUBTS THAT A SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION ON VAROSHA WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A SETTLEMENT. NURES SAID THAT TURKS HOPED FOR A LOW PROFILE SESSION IN WHICH EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO LIMIT DAMAGE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

4. IN CLOSING, NURES DREW ATTENTION TO AUGUST 29 STATEMENT OF "TFSC" NEGOTIATOR ONAN ON READINESS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS

TO RESUME INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, NOTING THAT COUNSELER NIMETZ HAD SAID ON AUGUST 26 THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE WELCOME (REFTEL). HE EXPLAINED, IN RESPONSE TO BARBOUR'S QUESTION, THAT THIS READINESS WAS PREDICATED ON SIMILAR GOODWILL INTENTIONS ON PART OF GREEK CYPRIOTS. SHOULD

LATTER PERSIST IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST TURKISH COMMUNITY AND CONTINUE TO HAVE RECOURSE TO UN, THEN "TFSC" MIGHT BE COMPELLED TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE.

5. COMMENT: WE TAKE NURES REMARKS TO CONSTITUTE ASSURANCE THAT TURKS HAVE AT PRESENT NO PLANS TO GO BEYOND REOPENING HOTEL CONSTANTIA AND TWO OR THREE ADJACENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 207703

BUILDINGS. WE ALSO BELIEVE GOT REPLY TO NIMETZ IS AN EFFORT TO SHOW AS COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE AS THEY CAN WITH US ON SC AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. CHRISTOPHER

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